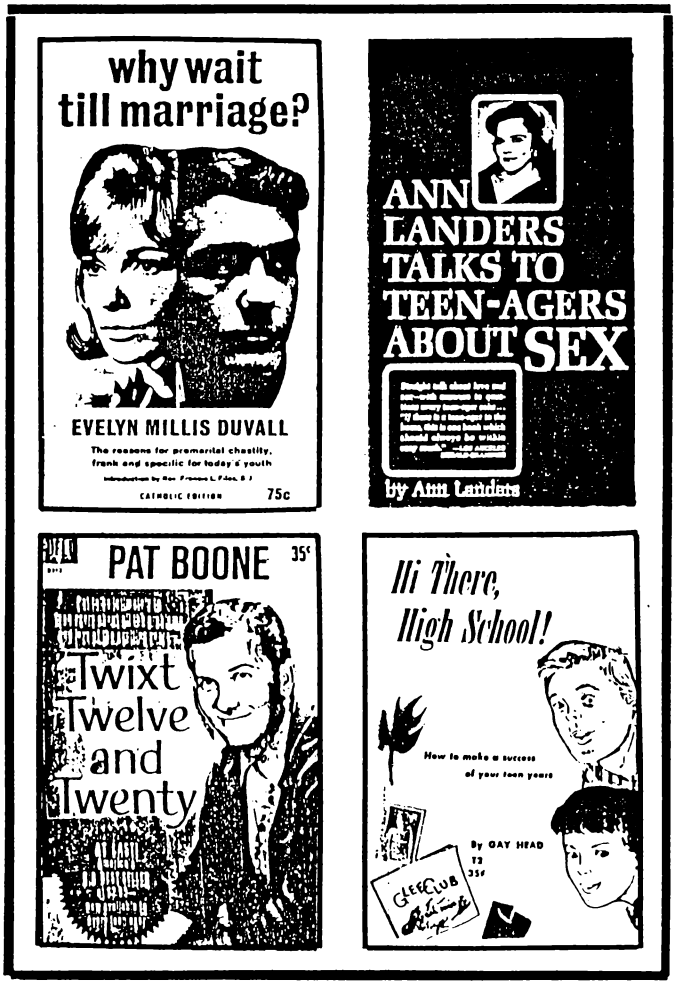
$1.25

Murder Can Be Fun

—Presents—


why wait till marriage?
EVELYN MILLIS DUVALL
The reasons for premarital chastity, frank and specific for today's youth
CATHOLIC EDITION
75c
ANN LANDERS TALKS TO TEEN-AGERS ABOUT SEX
By Ann Landers
PAT BOONE
35¢
Twixt Twelve and Twenty
Hi There, High School!
How to make a success of your teen years
By GAY HEAD
GLEE CLUB

(Anti-) Sex Tips For Teens

The Teenage Advice Book: 1897 - 1987

Johnny Marr
Box 640111
San Francisco, CA 94109

They're mindless. They're pointless. They're patronising. They dish out bad advice on irrelevant topics for a world that never existed. They're written by hoplessly old fogeys, illustrated by Norman Rockwell aspirants, and published by companies blinded by the latest statistics on teen buying power.

Boy, do I love them!

These books are funny, and not because the authors crack jokes on every page. In fact, the actual jokes are the least laughable part, except when they get so corny that it's funny that they're supposed to be funny. No, the true comedy in the books was quite unintentional. It's the advice.

A lot of it is because of what I like to call the Michael Brady suit syndrome. It may be kind of tough to appreciate from our liberal, enlightened 1988 viewpoint, but there really was a time when people believed a lot of this stuff. Nice girls don't kiss on the first date. Masturbation will drive you insane. Girls should never call boys. Boys expect to marry virgins. Etc. Fun stuff, just like those hideous polyester suits that people actually thought were attractive in the '70s. Laugh at it now, 'cos your kids will probably chuckle over what you did in the old-fashioned '80s.

Then there's the advice that's just plain bad. It's hard to picture someone giving it with a straight face, and even harder to imagine someone following it. A lot of these authors seriously seem to mourn the passing of the hoopskirt, bustle, and chaperone. Yes, I do know that times have changed, but I refuse to believe that, among other things: a girl should only kiss a boy on a special occasion, & that this will improve her popularity; one stray hand under a blouse will brand a girl as a slut for life (what about going away to college?); and, all pick-ups & blind dates are sure invitations for rape. Then there's the standard f rmula for popularity that (almost) all books give: be yourself, be friendly, act interested in people, don't go along with the crowd, join lots of activities, and you, too, will get that quarterback. Hah!

My theory is that a lot of these authors knew it's all nonsense. One of them even cited a cartoon which I think sums it all up. A car is parked in front of a house, obviously with the daughter bidding her date goodnight inside. In the house, the father paces in a worried, exasperated * circle. Mother:"What are you worried about, dear? Don't you remember when we were young?". Father: "That's exactly what I'm worried about.". It's do as I say, not do as I did. Parents would love to have clean, quiet, respectful teens who don't break curfew, are immune to peer pressure, and who only get into hot handholding after the Senior Prom. I also think that most of these books were either written to be bought by parents, or at least screened by them before letting Junior at it. These are not guides for being a happy teen -- these are guides for having a happy parent.

On the other hand, I do conceed that some of these authors were really clueless. They seem to think adolescence can and is such a wonderful experience, filled with joy, laughter & good times if you follow their advice & act like a vir-

gin's virgin. I don't know about you, but most people I know think those "wonderful" years were a pretty miserable period, no matter how popular and/or well-behaved they were. I wouldn't be surprised if a lot of these writers were born 40 years old, or are suffering from premature senility.

I've tried to refrain from being too critical here. Virtually all of these advice books can be attacked from any perspective you care to mention: racist, sexist, ethnocentric, Godless, atheistic, too conservative, too liberal -- you name it. There's enough here for any sociology or history student to really go to town with a thesis. For one thing, an overwhlming amount of the dating advice is directed towards girls. You have your sex-hygiene books for boys, you have your sex-hygiene books for girls. You have dating books for girls, but you don't have any for boys. Even the dating books aimed at boys & girls spend most of their time coaching the girls. This is a sitting duck for feminists & masculists.

I tried to be pragmatic. Does the advice really work? Is the author on the kids side or on the adult's ("It's all for your own good")? Does the author admit that adolescence isn't all basketball games & senior proms? An advice book, after all, should be talking about the real world instead of an idealized figment of the author's imagination no matter how much the current generation's gone to the dogs.

Of course, as far as serious advice goes, even the best leave much usaid. Only one even bothers to mention the crabs, probably because those pesky little devils never stopped anyone from having sex. VD works much better. Ditto for non-intercourse sexual practices, which seem to fall under the heading of "petting". Considering how broad that term is, very few define it, & then only vaguely. And then, while most books agree that teens are too young for sex, they never say when you are old enough. Unless you get married, it's virginity forever.

Most of these books are just one I picked up over the years in the 25¢ bins at used bookstores. These are not rare books, and if you pay more than $3 (& that only for the older ones), you're getting ripped off. A lot of the better titles (like ANN LANDERS TALKS TO TEENS..., TWIXT 12&20, FACTS OF LIFE..., HI THERE, HIGH SCHOOL, etc.) are extremely common. In fact, the hardest part is finding a bookstore willing to admit their customer's low brow tastes by buying 'em in the first place. Then, it's finding out where they shelve 'em. There are hundreds, if not thousands more titles out there just begging for another chance to twist some poor kid's adolescence. After reading 50 of 'em, I even started to feel a bit twisted. I'm finished. But are you?

Good luck.

ANTI-SEX TIPS FOR TEENS is a peculiar out/side growth of MURDER CAN BE FUN, a fanzine dedicated to crime, disaster, weird books & even weirder people. Sample copies, as well as additional copies of this fine publication, may be ordered for $1.25 from John Marr -- cash, check, money order, mint stamps, whatever. Original writings contained herein are all copyright 1988 by Mr. Marr. Address all correspondence & cash donations to the above address. Benave yourselves. Special thanks to SduP, D. Volk, RE/SEARCH, Copyworld, the Holmes Book Company, all self-appointed teen gurus, and, last but not least, the teens of America for being such an amusing bunch of fuck-ups. 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

A Pure Book on an avoided subject

WHAT A YOUNG MAN OUGHT TO KNOW by Sylvanus Stall, D.D.
(Vir Publishing Co., 1897)

It's hard to believe today, but back at the turn of the century, books like WHAT A YOUNG MAN... were considered to be sound advice for young (16-25) men. It was originally published as part of the widely praised "Self & Sex", lauded for "telling the whole truth, but in a pure, clean, and enobling way". The series was widely distributed, and eventually translated into over a dozen languages to spread that uplifting message throughout the world. Undoubtably, these were the books that good, modern (and of course, Christian) parents would hand their children when "that time" came. Probably saved a lot of blushing.

This is how the kids of the "Gay" '90s picked up some really warpped ideas. This book takes purity to the point of perversion. Standards are set so high that it's all but biologically impossible to live up to them -- yet failure means a slow, lingering death. The only people who spout this stuff today are mental patients turned street preacher. Even Jerry Falwell would find this book too pure.

Author Sylvannus Stall qualified as a sex expert apparently on the basis of his Doctor of Divinity degree, so right off, you know his prime source isn't going to be the 19th century equivalent of Masters & Johnson. Just hope that he's at least a married man, for a little first hand experience.

Stall is concerned with no less of a goal of preserving the highest ideals of Christian civilization: "Man's highest culture is found in the symmetric development of his 3-fold nature: physical, intellectual and spiritual". There is only one pat leading to this triple jackpot of bliss: complete and absolute purity, in thought, act, & deed.

Step #1: purity of mind, for "evil thoughs are like disease germs". This means no novels, which inspire sensual thoughts and weaken the mind, and no obscene pictures, whether art or not. Such drawings begat impure thoughts & mental images that are impossible to erase. Many otherwise good (read pure) men continue to be haunted by one glance at a pornographic picture.

Things get a little trickier with step #2: purity of body. The quack personal hygiene is easy enough: 3 meals a day no less than 5 hours apart, and no snacks; 8 hours sleep in a hard bed with minimal covering & the window open (summer & winter!); and, daily cold sponge baths. Avoid pork at all costs. It's a well known fact that it poisons the blood & causes skin diseases. One must also always sleep alone, even when married. The stronger bed mate always absorbs the vital forces of the weaker.

WHAT EMINENT PEOPLE IN AMERICA SAY.

JOHN W. PHILIP.

Commodore United States Navy, the Illustrious Commander of Battleship Texas in the Naval Engagement at Santiago in which Cervera's Spanish Fleet was destroyed.

"'What a Young Man Ought to Know' impresses me as a volume of such serious importance and such skilful handling of a delicate subject that I have placed it upon the reading table of the Cob Dock Library in this Yard (Navy Yard, Brooklyn, New York), with the expression of the hope, written on the fly-leaf, that 'many sailor men will pick this book up and read it.'"

WHAT EMINENT PEOPLE IN ENGLAND SAY.

FREDERICK ANTHONY ATKINS.

Editor of "The Young Man," "The Young Woman," "The Home Messenger," Author of "Moral Muscle," "First Battles," "Aspiration and Achievements"

"I think you have done a very difficult work with great delicacy and care. Such books as yours have long been needed, and if they had appeared sooner many a social wreck, whose fall was due to ignorance, might have been saved. You have given young people information which ought not to be hidden from them by any false and foolish modesty, information which may protect them from many a blunder and sin, and you have given it with purity of thought and delicacy of expression."

The hard part in keeping that body pure (and, of course, the most important) is totally abstaining from the "vile" practice of "self pollution" (masturbation). If you don't, your fate is certain: "Any young man who continues this evil practice may be sure he is undermining his physical powers, destroying his health, softening his brain, weakening his intellect, converting himself into an imbecile and preparing himself either for the insane asylum, or an early place in the cemetary." Makes you think twice, eh?

But, most important of all is step #3: avoiding sexual excesses. VD is described as a "loathsome disease", a fitting punishment"for those who defy the laws of God & Man. (Remember, this is decades before penicillin). Oddly enough, Stall also believes that syphilis can be picked up also from such diverse sources as toilets, combs, brushes, cups, and silverware. It is the inevitable fate of the libertine to die of this "contagion", but only after passing it on to his beloved wife & children.

Obviously, there is to be no toleration of the double standard. Both bride & groom are to be 100% certifiable white-flowers. But, even after the ceremony, the man must continue to restrain himself. A man who refuses to curb the sexual demands he places on his wife is "unfitting to be a father". Even if his wife is not "sexually infirm" at the time of marriage (and fully 1/3 already are due to "rich, unwholsome food, supporting the weight of their dresses & skirts from the hips instead of the shoulders, novel reading, and the keeping of late hours"), the "unrestrained indulgence of his sexual passion would speedily render her so". All young men should look forward, out of self respect and respect for their wives, to weeks, months, even years of self-denial and control. Sex is reserved strictly for procreation.

And I bet you thought the 1950's were the high point of sexual repression...

THE Disease

INSTEAD OF "WILD OATS" by Winfield Scott Hall (Revell, 1912)

In 1906, noted American prig & editor of the LADIES' HOME JOURNAL Edward Bok made publishing history by printing an article on the previously taboo subject of venereal disease. Up until then, this subject could only be discussed in pool rooms, beer halls, and medical meetings. This outraged the readers of the LHJ, who promptly proceeded to bombard Bok with thousands of irate letters, many of which were from husbands whose wives had started asking embarrassing questions. But Bok was not fazed. Over the next few years, he launched a major campaign to inform the public about the very real hazards of gonorrhea & syphilis.

Part of the campaign was "The Edward Bok Books of Self-Knowledge For Young People & Paretns", a series of slim little volumes which sold by the tens of thousands for 25¢ each. INSTEAD OF WILD OATS was the title intended for "The Youth of 18 and Older". Borderline teen, but they didn't mature as fast in those days.

In the introduction, Bok justifies his basic philosophy of moral uprightness & purity strictly on economic grounds: "A young man's chances to 'make good' depend upon, and are related to his clean moral habits". In other words, the less you sin, the more you make. (Temptation?) Not too surprisingly, given the background of the series, this particular title relies almost exclusively on VD horror stories to support Bok's thesis.

Since author Winfield Scott Hall was a professor of physiology at Northwestern, all the biological details are reasonable accurate, and probably represented state-of-the-art knowledge of the time. Pre-antibiotic VD was incurable, and not a pretty sight, and Hall dwells on the effects of chronic gonorrhea & syphilis in graphic and almost loving detail. The only sure way to avoid this horrible fate is to forgo wild oats, for "all lewd women (defined as all those who have non-marital sex) are diseased some of the time, and some of them are diseased all of the time". He feels that doctors who advise sexually frustrated young men to seek release "With some clean woman" are frauds & charltans who should be disbarred immediatly. Typical of the time, some mention is made of catching VD from toilet seats & public drinking cups, but these are presented as only minor sources of infection.

Hall also has a few other minor suggestions for improving the health of young men which don't directly relate to VD. Wet dreams are fine & dandy, and are a perfectly natural phenomenon. Relax. Masturbation, on the other hand, will stunt your growth. Don't! (At least it doesn't drive you insane anymore). Young men should also always sleep with the windows open, or even better, outdoors in a tent, summer & winter! If everyone did this, TB & pneumonia would soon be eradicated.

But these are just minor concerns. If Bok & Hall wanted to boil down their advice for the young man, it would simply be "Beware the lewd woman!"

Vital Youth

GROWING INTO MANHOOD by Roy Dickerson (Association Press, 1945. c 1933)

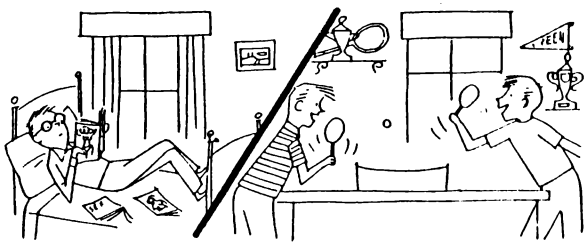
GROWING INTO MANHOOD, like so many other teen advice books, had to walk the thin line between informing the kids (13-15 year old boys in this case) and offending their parents. Unfortunately, Dickerson didn't even give it the good ol' college try. This book is guaranteed not to offend anyone -- even the most devout prude could not help but approve of its tasteful discussion of the Facts of Life.

Literally, the book manages to avoid actually saying anything. Everyone's heard that old cliche about "the birds & the bees". Well, that's exactly what Dickerson discusses (along with herrings!) The saga of the sperm & the egg is hoplessly lost in physiology with only one quick, passing reference to "placing the penis...in the vagina in an act referred to as sexual intercourse". The only concession to frankness is the masturbation discussion, where it is revealed that the practice is neither sinful, evil, or dangerous. And no, it's not spinal fluid. Nonetheless, it does "involve a childish lack of self-control" and should be ceased immediatly.

The major aim of this book is to keep all those young boys on that straight&narrow path to pristinely pure manhood by appealing to their higher nature. People like Teddy Roosevelt are held up as fine examples of American manhood, possessing all the "masculine qualities of daring, grit, and courage". Men must practice discipline, and refrain from self-indulgence (basically because she might get pregnant). "If he were genuinely manly, he would be thoughtful of girls & children & strong enough to control himself for their sake". However, never is there any mention of exactly how one gets off this path of purity. Mustn't give the kids ideas, y'know.

Just in case those desires do get to strong, Dickerson recommends (with a straight face) a set of handsprings or a quick headstand. Undoubtably, this is why the US Olympic teams had so much more success in gymnastics back then.

And are you surprised that Association Press is actually a YMCA front?



A busy, activity-filled program prevents an undue preoccupation with sex.

SQUARE DATING

YOUTH'S COURTSHIP PROBLEMS by Alfred Murray (Zondervan, 1940)

YOUTH'S COURTSHIP PROBLEMS is the only pre-World War II "dater" (as opposed to sex hygiene) book in my hoard, and quite possibly the most square. No less of a purveyor of filth that The Sunday School Times praised it for being "frank without being lurid, decent without sparing detail". Translation from Christian to English: it is not frank and there are no details, lurid or otherwise. Even in 1940, anyone follwing this book's recommendations must have been quite a cold fish.

It's not too hard to see why this book is so tight. Zondervan was, and is, a publisher of mildly conservative Christian propaganda. Murray qualified as a dating expert by having been a chaplain in the Navy, a psychology student, father of 2 teen girls, as well as being an ex-dater himself.

To his credit, Murray does refrain from hellfire, brimstone, and eternal damnation. His approach is much more low-keyed & subtle, with God kept completely out of it. Don't do that -- that's not how it's done. People won't respect you. You will have a bad reputation. He even comes out firmly in favor of dating. After all, one must be fruitful & multiply.

First off, you only date people you know. Blind dates are completely out of the question, illustrated with tales of innocent teens being set up with criminals and rapists. Pick-ups are out, too. In fact, boys who engage in that practice are, at the very least, "Immoral exploiters of human weakness" if not out&out white slavers. A much better way to get dates is to pal around with your parent's friends on the offchance that they might have presentable offspring of an appropiate age.

As for the dates themselves, let's just say that there's no such thing as a "hot" date. Dating is for intellectual & spiritual interaction; the physical stuff's for marriage. Lips off! Girls are cautioned about dishing out kisses indiscriminantly in a 10-pg essay on the meaning of a kiss. Got to watch out for VD, y'know. He even tells of an innocent game of "post office" where all 14 participants caught syphilis from the 15th.

Kissing only becomes ok when both parties sincerely like/love one another, and that's all that's ever ok until marriage. Keep those hands off, because "No girl, unless she's cheap, wants to pet". He thinks that teens pet out of boredom, & seriously suggests that the young couple read The Reader's Digest together as an alternative.

Chemical stimulants are equally verboten. Alcohol & tobacco are notorious narcotics to be avoided at all costs, & marijuana "quickly produces sexual perversion, insanity, & crime". "It is the most dangerous drug in America". Caveat emptor.

Fortunately, Murray also believes in early marriage.

Ask a Stupid Question...

QUESTIONS GIRLS ASK by Helen Welshimer & Elizabeth O'Neil (Dutton, 1949)

What better way to discuss a book of questions than to quote the questions & answers & let Mss. Welshimer & O'-Neill dig their own graves? They, themselves, blithely advise their readers that "If you think we are erecting a pulpit to preach at you, better cdose the book". BANG!

WHERE SHALL WE GO ON DATES?
--"Any place which has the approval of your parents... In every community there are a few spots where a danger sign swings. It isn't an old-fogy attitude which teaches that Nice Girls Don't Go There".

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I DATE THE SAME BOY?
--"It's common sense to date several boys... for either he will tire of you or you will be bored with him quite soon"

MUST WE KISS THE BOYS GOOD NIGHT?
--"The answer is quite simple. It's no. You can increase your popularity rating by refusing if you know how to refuse with gaiety &charm... It will be all right to kiss a boy on some special occaision like his birthday of after a super-special prom."

WHAT ABOUT BLIND DATES?
--"The cards are stacked against you if you go out alone with a stranger."

IS IT ALL RIGHT TO CORRESPOND WITH A BOY I DON'T KNOW?
--"Bitter experience for many girls, and even blackmail on the part of their unknown correspondents has been the outcome of a number of such affairs."

WHY CAN'T I DO AS I PLEASE?
--"You must live with yourself for a long time... If you take the dangerous way now it will hurt you deeply in future years."

IS HEAVY PETTING FROWNED ON BY MODERN SOCIETY?
--"Society is not prudis in asking you to stay on the safe & sure side, as civilizations moral code demands... Petting is not only dangerous because it can take you to the point where you can lose self control, but it wastes much good time."

And mind you, this is the revised, updated version. Welshimer wrote the original in 1939, but in the next 10 years, she lost touch with young people, so enter O'Neil with some "up-to-the-minute guideposts". Are you surprised that it's Miss Welshimer?

GAY HEAD

HI THERE, HIGH SCHOOL by Gay Head (Scholastic, 1960. © 1953)

Now stop laughing. As far as I can tell, Gay Head was her real, honest-to-goodness name. Would anyone willing choose that for a pen name? Evidently, she was a big-time editor & writer for Scholastic in the '50s & 60s, a publishing house not noted for daringness or experimentation. These are the ones your teacher pushed in class. Remember Tab and Arrow Book Clubs?

Chances are, when you were a high-school freshman, they made you sit through a bunch of boring, inspirational speeches & whatnot on how great high school would be if you'd just give it your all. You knew it was bullshit, the speaker knew it was bullshit, and so (hopefully) did Miss Head. But, she also knew that there were $$$$ to be made selling a book of that orientation nonsense to insecure freshmen dreaming of "making the grade".

Any poor geek kid taking this book seriously is well on his way to becoming an even geekier senior. Ms. Head isn't on the kid's side -- she's in bead with the brass, trying to give them a quite, complacent student body. The administrators and teachers "are your friends".

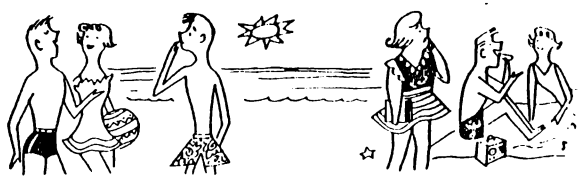
Don't waste any time, she urges. First day, freshman year: "Start now to make your class the best ever to be graduated from your school". This means know your school, know your teachers, know the clubs, and all the school cheers & fight songs. But above all, know nothing.

Ms. Head considers manners to be very important, & rails against those committing such crimes as bumping into people or having bad cafeteria manners. She calls them "the traffigoons", complete with stories of goons in action. Remember Goofus & Gallant?

But it isn't enough to avoid food fights in the cafeteria. One must pay attention in class & listen respectfully to whatever the teacher says. They do know more than you do. Apple polishing may be out of date, but it certainly won't hurt to try "offering to open the window". And school equipment deserves every bit as much respect as the teachers: "To care for public property is your duty in return for the privilege of using it".

Even when you're out of school, you might as well be in: "Make your school known for its well-mannered students". Live out your adolescence without once acting like a teenager. Makes you want to be young again.

And it all boils down to: Welcome to Stepford High!



Some teen-agers let being too fat or too thin ruin their self-confidence.

† Billy Graham

BILLY GRAHAM TALKS TO TEENAGERS (Pyramid, 1969. c1958)

It's 1969. The center of American cities are in rubble from an unending series of race & anti-war riots. In college, kids shoot heroin; in high school, they drop acid, and in grade school, they smoke pot. 400,000 teens were about to descend upon an obscure village in upstate New York for a 3-day orgy of sex, drugs, & rock&roll. Teen crime, pregnancy, and VD rates are all at all-time highs.

What better time to re-issue Billy Graham's 1958 inspirational best-seller, billing it as "America's foremost evangelist tackles the crucial problems that confront the NOW generation"?

Of course, all those proto hippies looking for a Christian perspective on their problems were sorely disappointed. Even in 1958, this book was dated; by 1969, it was ready for a museum.

Like all good inpirational books, there is preciously little in the way of hard facts of sound, serious advice on real problems. It's almost all anecdotes & illustrations taken from the bible, with an uplifting theme & an underlying message: ONE WAY! "Dig into your Bible, teenager" Graham urges. Carry it wherever you go. You never know when you might have to witness someone.

Direct, day-to-day advice is minimal. Going steady? "I definitely would not go steady. I don't think most fellows or girls are mature enough to go steady". Rock 'n' Roll? "I do feel it has gotten out of hand. Anything that whips young people into a frenzy is bad... If I were 17 today, I'd stay as faraway from it as I could." Hot Rods? "Go easy on cars... It's not much of a witness for Christ to go around endangerin the lives of others, is it?"

He's very big on sports, and goes into considerable detail on why the proper sporting lifestyle is Christian. For example, "You simply cannot abuse your body, be addicted to f filthy habits & be a star on the athletic field". This analogy extend off the field, too, for,we all really are performing for that "Master Coach, Jesus Christ".

But the best thing is Billy's use of Samson (who he calls "God's juvenile delinquint") as a metaphor to modern teen problems. Samson had great potential. You, as a teen in the wealthiest nation on earth, have great potential. You have problems? So did Samson -- sex (too much), parents (not listening to...) and just plain too much leisure time. But, above all, Samson suffered from his problem with sin: he did them all! In the end, the roof literally fell in on him. So is it with the youth of today: "That's the way sin is: you committ one little sin and then it leads to a bigger sin, & in the end it kills you".

Conclusion: "The crowd of young people that know Jesus Christ is the crowd having the best time in America today". But what if you think Charles Manson is Jesus Christ?

BETWEEN YOU, ME and the GATEPOST

A heart-to-heart message for teen-agers

By Pat Boone

Golly Gee - It's Pat Boone

TWIXT 12 AND 20 by Pat Boone (Dell, 1960. ©1958)
BETWEEN YOU, ME, & THE GATEPOST by Pat Boone (Prentice, 1960)

Pity the poor teen looking for advice in all the wrong places. You can understand lovelorn letters to Abby & Ann. Even Billy Graham makes some sense -- a preacher is supposed to be a sort of counselor. But Pat Boone? Would you pour your heart out to a notoriously square singer of watered down whitebread rock&roll? A man that comedian Phil Harris one told "Pat, if I had a son, I'd like him to be just like you -- until he was 3 years old".

Pat claims they sent him letters by the sackful, so that TWIXT 12&20, his first book, was practically a gesture of self defense. Whether or not this flood of letters was real, the kids certainly bought his book in unprecedented numbers. TT&T is one of the few teen advice books to ever make the bestseller lists, and it's not too hard to see why. Among the hordes of square teen advice books of the '50s, Pat's was by far the best. Not only is he squarer than the others, but he's a hell of a lot more fun to read.

Make no mistake -- these books are slick. Either Pat is truly multi-faceted, or knows an excellent ghost writer. He's just so gosh-durned friendly & informal, it's more like sitting down for a chat with your good buddy Pat than listening to some "understanding" adult laying down the law. He takes full advantage of his age - 24 when TT&T came out -- to frequently lapse into "we". The slang is hep. He tells corny jokes, & talks about all the scrapes he got into when he was a teen. It's hard to resist.

Pat sums up his philosophy & approach in TT&T as "I believe the teen age can be a really great experience... You won't get through it without making mistakes... But perhaps, if I share some of mine with you...". Brace yourself for an unending series of anecdotes.

No, Pat 'fesses up to not quite being an angel during his teen years (that's what he says). He pulled his fair share of pranks & even played games like post office & spin the bottle (a girl told him that he "kissed like a cow"), just like any ordinary elementary school student. Sure, he was mischevious, and yes, he got "blistered" often, but it was all good clean mischeviousness. Remember that.

Pat urges teens to "live for today" -- i.e., act your age. When you're 15, act 15, not 18. "Both you & I have seen some of the penalties paid by teenagers who insist on living ahead of their physical or emotional or mental age & growth". Somehow, he thinks this explains the scourge of the '50s, the juvenile delinquent.

The end goal of all this teenage business, he explains, is maturity in 5 areas: spiritual, social, mental, physical, and work. Spiritual maturity comes"from the Bible. This is my road map". Social maturity means following the Golden Rule. Mental maturity involves getting maximum benefit from that school you go to, which is just filled with intelligent teachers eager to help you learn. Sadly, most teens treat it "like a guy walking into a fancy resturaunt & ordering a big dinner, paying for it, & then trying to sneak out without eating it". Physical maturity is basic hygiene & sanitation. Work maturity can be summed up as "whistle while you work". In short, you're mature when you're perfect. Just like Pat.

Needless to say, Pat is far from an advocate of teen sex. In fact, he avoids the subject completely, preferring to discuss what he calls "April Love". The rules? Don't rush, take it easy, and stick to the middle course. He waffles on the then-controversial issue of going steady. He admits to having indulged himself, briefly, on 2 occaisons. It may be OK. Ditto for teen marriages. It's ok only if both parties are 5-point matures. (Ed. Note: Pat eloped at 19)

The #1 question Pat claims getting in his teen mailbag is "How can I be more popular?" And the answer is, like 100s of advice books before, and thousands since, boils down to "be yourself", which is good advice, if you're part of that lucky 5% who are just naturally popular to begin with.

Following the publication of TT&T, Pat was quoted widely as saying that he'd said it all -- no need for him to ever write another teen book. Then, presumably, he started getting royalty statements. Hmmm, maybe there were a few things left unsaid. Thus, BETWEEN YOU, ME, & THE GATEPOST.

BYM&TG has all the slickness & bumpkinness of TT&T, but this time, Pat is running out of things to say. As you read the usual anecdotes about Pat's "hellrasing" youth, they start sounding familiar. Where did you read these before?

This time, Pat goes into more of a state of the generation rap instead of just concentrating on day-to-day survival. As a self-confessed optimist/"hope addict", he has boundless faith in the upcoming generation. Sure, he thinks teen morals are slipping -- but only slightly, as are those of adults. He talks about the boundless future, the exciting new careers, the hope, joy, & glory, etc., etc., etc. Have we reached paradise yet?

In between the inspiration, Pat sneaks in a little of that inimitable (& comparatively graphic) Boone advice for "April Love". On selecting a date: "a date whoe principles are showing can make your private tussles with yourself a lot easire to win". Is Pat actually admitting to a sex drive here?

Pat thinks that dating is a great thing, but you should be aware of the difference between "kissing", kissing, & KISSING. "Kissing" is something you do with your grandmother or maybe with a date in appreciation for a wonderful evening. OK. Kissing is the first step in making out, which leads directly to some unspecified form of trouble. A no-no! And KISSING is reserved strictly for that one & only, preferably after the ceremony.

Pick-ups are another no-no, but blind dates, with discretion, are fine. As for cars, Pat tells his daughters "When they're not getting you around, they're getting you in trouble." But whatever you do, make sure your parents approve first.

The most unique & interesting feature of both books, however, is the soft-sell that Pat does for Christianity. He makes no bones about being a member of the Church of Christ, a fundamentalist outfit. But he's very careful never to push, shove or threaten so as not to alienate members of other sects or atheists. They buy books too, y'know.He prefers dangling a carrot of redemption in front of the kids instead of threatening them with everlasting hellfire. And he does it in such a casual way, it's no wonder that he's now a big born-again PR man today.

For reading pleasure, these books a great, a laugh on every page. How can one man be so corny? Quote: "Do you know what the largest room in the world is? The room for self-improvement". Let's just hope Pat remembers this (& anorexic daughter Cherry) before coming out with another one.

DICK CLARK

YOUR HAPPITEST YEARS by Dick Clark (Random, 1959)
TO GOOF OR NOT TO GOOF by Dick Clark (Fawcett, 1965 ©1963)

At this late date, no one's talking, but consider this possible scenario. Handsome young rock star writes teen advice book which sells mega-copies. Handsome (not quite as) young host of tv dance show on which said star frequently guests takes note. One year later, the tv host comes out with his own advice book. Coincidence? No. "Artistic inspiration?" Of course.

The two players in this hypothetical little drama were Pat Boone & Bandstand host Dick Clark, "Americas's Oldest Teenager". Dick's first book hit the stands barely a year after TWIXT 12 & 20. Even the jacket photos look alike!

Like most other inspired imitations, YHY doesn't climb (or descend) to the same level of ridiculousness as TT&T. Being older, Dick's had more time to forget all of his little adolescent anecdotes, and, being from the city, he can't play the friendly hayseed. The book isn't nearly as slick -- none of that "we" stuff here. It's more the typical friendly adult talking to teens bit.

The material & content, however, is very Boonish. Inspiration, obediance, and ettiquette are emphasized, though God is kept out. "Good manners are good sense". Parents are all-wise & all-knowing. All those teen problems could be solved if you'd just talk to & listen to your wonderful parents. Dick even gives a great counterexample about some poor guy who broke curfew & wound up with tuberculosis. Father knows best!

Maybe it had something to do with Pat's 2nd book not burning up the bestseller lists, but with his 2nd book, TO GOOF OR NOT TO GOOF, Dick steps out of the Boone mold. "To goof or not to goof -- that is the question. Whether it be nobler to suffer the slings & arrows of outraged parents or to take arms against a sea of snickers from the gang at school.." And to goof is to violate the laws laid down by Uncle Dick.

No wishy-washyness here. Dick tells you exactly what, & what not to do, with an overwhelming empasis on Manners of the proper fork variety. "A knife is never, but NEVER brought to the mouth". He extends ettiquete to the streets with such dictums as "Thou shalt not play chicken". (Killing people is very bad manners). After reading this, teens may still do the wrong thing, but in a mannerly way.

Oddly enough, Dick takes a surprisingly rational view on curfews. Instead of the standard "earn your parent's trust", he advocates flexible hours, taking into account the teen, the town, & the event. He wisely avoids mentioning an exact witching hour.

He also dishes out plenty of conventional teen wisdom. He gives a fully detailed outline on how to have a decent party, complete with bright lights & chaperones, and minus intoxicants & gatecrashers. As for kissing, he advises girls to "Kiss them good night. And if they want more than that, kiss them goodbye".

Obviously, this book was intened to be a serious reference. It was one of the few advice books with an index, complete with entries for blouses (off-shoulder), cars, make-up, & other such vital topics. But how useful? Conspicuous by their abscence are the really hot teen topics: necking, petting, & sex. Duck, Dick, duck!

435

MONARCH Select BOOKS

50¢

America's Most Popular Singing Idol
Talks To Teenagers About Growing Up

FOR EVERY YOUNG HEART

Connie Francis

"A Heart-Warmer!" New York MIRROR

16
Pages
of Photos

SORRY, CONNIE

FOR EVERY YOUNG HEART by Connie Francis (Monarch, 1964 ©1962)

Connie Francis could very well be the least qualified person to ever write a teen advice book, and when you look at some of the other nuts & self-appointed "experts" who've written them, that's saying a lot. On paper, she does look better than her fellow American Bandstand stablemates Pat Boone & Dick Clark: she was only 24, still young enough to remember what those teen years are like, and she'd sold a hell of a lot more records. However, Connie's adolescence was hardly normal. She was performing professionally reglarily at 13. To protect her from the sinful world of showbiz, her parents compensated by being incredibly strict & overprotective. Her budding romance with Bobby Darin ended when her father chased him off with a gun, and she was 20 before she ever heard the "f-word". It made her break down in tears & storm off the stage.

What ye show, ye shall reap... Her adult life has been a complete mess. She's been divorced 3 times, twice before the ink was dry on the marriage license. Her parents committed her twice (briefly) to mental hospitals. One suicide attempt. So listen close, kids, & if you're lucky, you just might grow up to be like Connie!

She makes no bones about it: "My teen years weren't the happiest" & proceeds to get autobiographical about it. She was teased for being fat, didn't have a date until her junior year, and was prohibited from going to the prom. Adolescence is hell, Connie knows it, and actually admits it. It's 8 years of feeling geeky, awkward, persecuted, and ugly. Does this mean she'll give some real advice?

Of course not. After the heart-rending reminiscing, Connie immediatly heads out into the ozone, from whence to dispense advice. "This is your chance now -- these few, wonderful years. Take stock, find out who you are, what you can do, where you're going". Once again, it's do as I say, not do as I do. Do such pearls as "No teenager should ever feel inferior just because they're different" even count as advice?

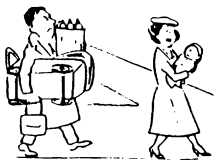
She harps on the standard cliches. Work hard, be good, mind your matters, be yourself, and respect your parents. Nothing outrageous, just stupid. But when she gets to dating, it's back to the 40's.

Dating's ok, and even kissing on the first date, if you like the guy. Necking's allowed, but petting is definitely out. Pickups? "A girl who goes out deliberately to be picked up lives dangerously." Bars? "Don't even stand near a bar & talk. Never drink at a bar, even if you're drinking gingerale."

Quite honestly, Connie sums up her advice as "be square" "If you're squre, people will respect you for sticking to your convictions". And that applies doubly to boys: "There isn't a boy on earth, no matter how hard he may try to change a girl's mind, who won't respect her for holding on to her moral beliefs". Oh really?

Conclusion: Connie Francis is the most respected woman in the world today.

Are You Heade



One of the best things about Ann
zes, which are written by variou
dated every few years. How do
fans?

1966

(score indicated number of points for each "yes" answer)

1. Ever gone out with a mos?	4
2. Ever been kissed?	4
3. Ever been French-kissed?	4
4. Ever kissed while in a reclining position?	5
5. Ever gotten or given a hickey?	3
6. Ever been kissed in your pajamas?	2
7. Ever been kissed against your will?	2
8. Ever parked for more than an hour?	5
9. Ever said, "I love you"?	3
10. Ever said, "I love you" to more than one person?	3
11. Ever gone steady?	4
12. Ever been picked up by a person you never saw before?	7
13. Ever play strip poker with a mos?	5
14. Have you ever gone all the way?	10
15. Have you had the desire to go all the way, buy managed to keep from it?	2
16. Have you ever made a mos cry?	4
17. Has a mos ever made you cry?	4
18. Do you smoke?	2
19. Do you drink?	2
20. Ever passed out from drinking?	5
21. Ever lie to your folks about where you went or with whom?	8
22. Ever smoke pot?	7
23. Ever taken an LSD trip?	10
24. Ever considered the pregnancy route so your folks would have to let you get married?	10

SCORING:

0 - 9	Queer or something
10 - 15	Pure as the driven snow
16-- 25	Passionate but prudish
26 - 35	Normal and decent
36 - 45	Indecent
46 - 55	Headed for serious trouble
56 - 60	In terrible shape
61 - ?	Condemned

* mos - member of

d For Trouble?

Landers are her sex quiz-
s self-appointed readers & up-
ou rate, according to Ann's

1978

1. Ever been out with a mos?	2
2. Ever engaged in light making-out? (Kissing, no intimate touching)	2
3. Ever gotten or given a hickey?	2
4. Ever said, "I love you"?	3
5. Ever said, "I love you" to more than one person in the same week?	4
6. Ever removed part of your clothing while making out in a car?	4
7. Ever masturbated?	2
8. Ever gone all the way with a mos?	5
9. Ever done so without using a contraceptive?	6
10. Ever tried sex with a member of your own sex?	8
11. Ever tried cigarettes?	1
12. Do you smoke regularily?	3
13. Do you smoke pot regularily?	5
14. Ever mix pot with pills?	6
15. Ever tripped on LSD?	7
16. Ever done angel dust (PCP), cocaine, or heroin?	8
17. Ever had an abortion or been responsible for one?	8
18. Ever wake up & not been able to remember what you did?	7
19. Ever get a girl pregnant?	8
20. Ever considered getting pregnant so you could hook a guy?	8
21. Ever had group sex?	8

SCORING:

0 - 7	Candidate for Sainthood
8 - 16	Normal and decent
17 - 30	Heading for serious trouble
31 - 40	In serious trouble and plenty messed up.
41 - ?	Either you are a damned fool or completely freaked out.

he opposite sex.

NOVEL TEEN SEX

IN HIGH AT SEXTEEN by Carl Ekoos (Vantage, 1963)

No bones made about what this book is: "intended to be a novel in which an adolescent may secure the fundamentals of sex information while pursing his interests in a running story." Ah, yes, the old textbook-as-novel dodge. Has anyone ever actually fallen for it?

The basic frame of this "novel" is a series of letters from one American high school student, Bill Smith, to his father out there globetrotting for the State Department. His mother's dead, no near relatives, so Billy boy is on his own. Fortunately, he's a good, make that very, very good, boy who doesn't chew gum in class, loves school, his teachers, & the very learning process itself. He also has a real straight moral streak in there somewhere. In short, a high school teacher's dream student -- one that Ekoos probably never found in his years of teaching. So much for believability.

The book opens up with the typical dream-like high school orientation about how beneficial & educational the school would be if the students didn't act like teenagers. Bill (a transfer student) makes a satisfactory adjustment, loves his classes, decides to become a doctor, gets kicked out of his rooming house, & winds up moving in with Mr. Brown, the sincere, dedicated biology teacher. Ekoos's alter ego?

Sex rears its fascinating head about a third of the way through in a chapter entitled "New Words For My Vocabulary". In this letter, Bill confesses to his father, "Today, I worried myself into a terrible fix... you see, Dad, I've had this special swelling of my penis...". He then relates how Mr. Brown informed Bill of the basics of smegma, foreskins, & hygiene. Unwittingly, this sows the seeds of a teen sex ed revolution.

Bill immediatly hits the books, proudly telling Father that "tonight I feel I am on the right road in acquiring the correct sex knowledge".

Bill does maintain control for a while, preferring to rave to Father about the joys of high school clubs & sports, & rail against the evils of the American "win at all costs" creed. Really, it's how you play the game. His only lapse is when he tells of the class JD who "met some incorrigible girls & indulged in some sort of sex orgies".

Then, he falls in love. Her name's Peggy. She's cute, smart, & big-mouthed. She just tramples right over poor Bill, lecturing him on what a narrowly obsessive schlep he is & reducing him in the process to a normal stammering teen age male. She really pitches into him when, in a moment of adolescent passion he "pinches the fleshy underside of her thigh". (Erotic or what?) It's about petting -- the light variety (kissing (light), handholding) which is ok, and the heavy stuff, which is strictly for engaged couples. Bill blushes.

They wind up working together furiously, presumably channelling their sex drives into it, for a high school "Family Life" program, in cahoots with the local adults & clergy. Bill can now tell his father even more of that great biology that he's learning. (But Bill -- don't you think that your father already knows what a penis is?)

Except for the biological side, the rites & rituals of dating & popularity are ignored, as though Billy doesn't care. Anyone dumb enough to fall for this "novel" probably wouldn't be literate enough to read it in the first place.

Does God Like You?

The following quiz is taken from YOUNG ONLY ONCE, a 1957 advice book still deemed worth reprinting in 1972 (see quick tip review). The allegeded purpose of this ouiz is to show you how much people like you, but we know that it's His opinion that really counts.

Score 1 point for each "Yes" answer.

1. Are you reasonably free from selfishness?
2. Are you a good loser in a game?
3. Can you take criticism without showing resentment?
4. Are you kind & generous in judging people and their actions?
5. Are you thoughtful and considerate of others?
6. Do you respect the opinions and rights of others?
7. Do you listen attentively when others speak to you?
8. Are you given to complimenting?
9. Do you believe God is interested in your everyday life?
10. Do you try to practice Christ's command "Love others as thyself"?
11. Do you speak distinctly and in a pleasant voice?
12. Do you generally use good English?
13. Do you refrain from correcting the mistakes of others?
14. Do you avoid saying things that may embarrass anyone who might be listening?
15. Are you careful not to exaggerate?
16. Do you refrain from being gossipy?
17. Do you refrain from envying others?
18. Do you make & hold friends easily?
19. Do you lend things to others readily?
20. Do you pray every day that God will make you more Christlike?

Now, don't you feel that these questions were really probing & insightful? That you now know just what others like, & dislike about you? And how many times did you lie?

Scoring:

16 - 20 "You're wonderful to know, a worthwhile friend"
12 - 15 "Rate yourself as average. That indicates you're fairly well liked".
8 - 12 "not so good".
0 - 7 "well, you're in a bad way"

things go better with... Christ

How To Really Get That Guy

HOW TO GET A TEENAGE BOY & WHAT TO DO WITH HIM WHEN YOU GET HIM by Ellen Peck (Geis, 1969)

By now, you probably think I'm impossible to please. But let's face it. When it comes to helping all those little confused adolescents adjust to their peers & develop a reasonably active social life, all the'advice' in these books is pretty worthless. The only people they really help are parents & teachers who want quiet, trouble free teens.

But, for every rule, there is an exception, and HOW TO GET A TEENAGE BOY... is the exception for teen "advice" books. Peck gives tips to teen girls which -- gasp! -- may actually work in the battle for popularity. This is the one book that, instead of telling the kids what to do, tells them how to do the things they want to do.

She immediatly dispenses with all the old bromides so dear to the hearts of advice authors past & present. Be yourself? Who knows who they are at 16? A little conformity never hurt anyone. Don't follow the crowd? Ditto. Who wants to be a well-respected hermit? Be a good listener? Well, with the average tongue-tied teen boy, you'd better be a good talker too. Don't kiss him on the first date? That went out with hoopskirts & bustles.

She says "I'm against rigid rules". Her forte is techniques of social manipulation. She outlines a complete set of strategy & tactics for an elaborate campaign to obtain the objective: a cute guy. If nothing else, this book is a fascinating look at adolescent social dymanics. (In fact, I first learned about this book in a college sociology course when the professor started quoting it!)

Take, for example, Peck's method of getting into a "crowd". (Why? For every crowd of girls, there's a corresponding crowd of guys.) It's like a full scale military operation: selecting the target, gathering intelligence, making the assault, strategic withdrawal, preparing for a 2nd assault.

First, an appropiate crowd must be selected, one neither too high or too low. Then, intelligence. Who's the crowd leader? Who are the core members? Who are on the fringes? What activities do they do together? Apart?

The actual attack should be directed at one of the core members (not the leader). You simply join into the activity or club that the target participates in without the rest of the crowd. From there, take it slow, & easy. Play it cool. Don't mention the crowd. Be patient.

Types of Boys and How to Get Them

TYPE	NATURAL HABITAT (AFTER 3 P.M.)	GENERAL TRAITS	SPECIAL TRAITS	RECOMMENDED ATTITUDE OR APPROACH
1. Superstar	Basketball gym; football field; track	Need for recognition	Muscles	Attend his sports events—with his crowd.
2. Non-athlete-celebrity	Journalism office; debate room; library	Need for recognition	Brains	Join debate team or journalism staff.
3. Social-register type	Coke or coffee shop	Need for recognition	Money or social background	Be casual but ever-present.
4. Social reformer	(a) The Crack of Dawn Coffee House (b) SDS rallies, SES meetings, political hdqtrs., UN club	(a) Need for recognition (b) Need for recognition	(a) Concern about social causes (b) Desire to do something about social causes	(a) Listen and learn. (b) Get out and get involved.
5. Activities major	Any room where there is any type of meeting	Need for recognition	Exhaustion	Follow him around.
6. Egghead	Library	Need for recognition	Knowledge	Ask for help with math.
7. Comic	Coke or coffee shop	Need for recognition	Fear that he won't be liked	Laugh with him and be reassuring.
8. Shadow	At home	Need for recognition	Benign immaturity	Say "Hi" and wait awhile.
9. Escapist	Might be anyplace around town (you talk to him and find out where)	Need for recognition	Independence; ability to compensate positively	Compliment whatever-it-is he has found to do.
10. Creep	Might be anyplace around town (don't bother finding out just where)	Need for recognition	Malignant immaturity	For now, anyway, leave him alone; don't get involved or try to "save him."

Other methods of getting at the guys are outlined in similar extensive detail, right down to actual conversation scripts. The different types of teenage boys, and how to get them. How to talk with boys. How to flirt. How to find boys (aka "Where the boys are"). How to get a boy to ask you out. How to give and go to a party. And when I mean details, I mean details! For example, one of the finer points of flirting (sub-heading: classroom) is the proper selection of a seat. In the center of the room, girls.

Throughout the book, Peck maintains a fairly liberal attitude & a realistic viewpoint which would make Pat Boone (& most other teen advice authors) blush. Virtually every other book either comes out firmly against going steady, or waffles around -- it may be ok, it may not. Peck is the only one to come out firmly <u>in favor</u> of going steady on the grounds that life is not an unending series of first dates.

She doesn't discuss actual sex very much, but that's mainly because she's busy with other subjects. When it does come up, she's pretty much against it for high school kids. But "gradual, limited sexual experiences" which stop short of Doing It are ok. Yes, this is the dreaded act of heavy petting. It will not wreck your reputation, and you will not go to hell. A revelation. Blind dates are fine, and even pick-ups (horrors!) are ok in certain places. Art galleries, yes; bus depots, no.

True, there are a lot of nasty things that can be said about this book, but that's really just because it's a realistic look at the teen pecking order, about which many nasty things can be said. This is the way things are, & this is how to deal with them. Isn't that what an advice book should say?

Are You Date Bait?

How do you rate?

Check yourself against the following lists—one for girls, one for boys—to see how you measure up to the qualities each sex likes in the other.

For girls:

Yes	No	
☐	☐	1. Do you enter enthusiastically into planning activities with your date or the gang?
☐	☐	2. Are you intelligently interested in the world about you?
☐	☐	3. Is your appearance pleasing? Do you have a healthy glowing look about you? Are you neat? Do you avoid using too much make-up?
☐	☐	4. Do you usually have a friendly smile for people?
☐	☐	5. Do you have a pleasant disposition? Are you easy to get along with?
☐	☐	6. Are you well-poised?
☐	☐	7. Have you an alert bearing and good posture?
☐	☐	8. Are you a good sport? Do you play fair with the fellows you date?
☐	☐	9. Do you avoid acting possessive (and feeling that way, too) toward both boy and girl friends?
☐	☐	10. Are you considerate? Do you think of a boy's feelings as well as your own before you act?
☐	☐	11. Do you appreciate the fact that a car is less important than the boy himself?

For boys:

Yes	No	
☐	☐	1. Are you courteous—gentlemanly and polite?
☐	☐	2. When making a date do you tell the girl what activity has been planned before you ask her if she can go?
☐	☐	3. Do you keep your voice well-modulated on a date?
☐	☐	4. Are you considerate of the girl you're with? Do you see that she has fun?
☐	☐	5. When you tease a girl, do you make sure you do so in a kind way, and that you don't hurt her feelings?
☐	☐	6. Is your personal appearance up to par: are you neat and well-groomed, and are your clothes carefully chosen?
☐	☐	7. Are you sincere and straight-forward with girls?
☐	☐	8. Are you poised? Do you act at ease in various situations?
☐	☐	9. Are you interested in a variety of things, so that you can converse with a girl on subjects other than football and model planes?
☐	☐	10. Are you dependable? Do you arrive places when you say you will? Do you keep your promises?
☐	☐	11. Are you congenial and fun to be with? Do you avoid arguments and remain even-tempered even though situations may be irritating?

How do you rate? The more questions you were able to answer with a "yes" the more successful you are likely to be with the other sex. Give yourself one point for every "yes" answer to a question and see where you stand.

- 9-11 You probably don't have to worry much about getting along with the other sex.
- 6-8 You're pretty well up on what it takes to be successful in boy-girl friendships.
- 3-5 You're on the right track but have to put forth more effort.
- 1-2 You'd better take a good look at yourself to see where you can make some improvements.

from HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL TEEN-AGER, 1954

Babbling Brooke

ON YOUR OWN by Brooke Shields (Villard, 1985)

When as ex-child porn star like Brooke Shields writes a book, she's got to be doubly careful. How many parents are going to buy a book for their little baby written by a girl who appeared in such filthy pictures as THE BLUE LAGOON and ENDLESS LOVE? So, Brook compensated by going clear back to the '40s for her moral code. Pat Boone would approve.

Technically, ON YOUR OWN is a borderline teen advice book. It's aimed at the female college freshman-to-be, and the bulk is straight glamor stuff: eat with Brooke, exercise with Brooke, get beautiful with Brooke. Also excessive autobiography (Teri Shields is not a stage mother!!!) & an amazing number of photos of those perfect cheekbones -- over 130, all fully clothed. But, shoehorned in there, somewhere, Brooke does dish out the motherly advice.

Mostly, she sounds just like a zoned out college counselor reading the pamphlets they give out at the campus mental health center. "College is at once a demanding & exciting experience". Study hard, but don't neglect your social life. It's not the end of the world if your roommate is not your best friend. College is really no harder than high school, so don't worry. If it gets too rough, get professional help. And, "I usually find that the quality of my papers directly reflects the amount of time, thought, & energy I put into them". Golly. How come I never noticed that?

The real howling comes in when the subject of that opposite sex is raised. Remember, she's supposedly writing this as a sophmore at a liberal, non-denominational college. The chapter is entitled "What My Virginity Means To Me". Yes, she proudly proclaims her intact state in spite of her association with such "hunks" as Christopher Atkins, Michael Jackson, John Travolta, Ton Selleck, & Bob Hope. She rationalizes the iceberg act by claiming she dowsn't want any involvements or entanglements right now; she wants to be free to find herself & develop her career insteading of heading to a Vegas wedding chapel. Oddly enough, I thought this was what most 19-year old guys wanted, too. That & a little sex.

But, if you're Brooke Shields, this doesn't interfere with your social life: "I still need to date just like any young woman". Her idea of a great date is a group date, like many other authors recommend for the junior high set. A good one is getting a gang together for an evening of dinner 'n' dancing, because "nobody gets too intense" and your date never gets enough privacy to try out some moves. This makes 100 years of advice authors beam with approval, I'm sure. Going steady isn't even mentioned. Her "boyfriends" get a 3 date limit -- after than, they're just too hot to trot. And, in case the situation does start to get out of control, she urges that you just walk out & leave. "You'll probably gain his respect". Also, you'll probably lose your place in his little black book, but Brookie doesn't mention that.

Yet the most inane thing about this book (& that's very inane) is not what she wrote, it's when she wrote it. It came out in January of her sophmore year, when she was a grizzled veteran of 3 semesters of college. If nothing else, Brooke has succeeded in producing the first 220 page definition of "sophmoric" in history.

Queen of 'em All

FACTS OF LIFE & LOVE FOR TEEN-AGERS by Evelyn Millis Duvall (Popular Library, 1956. ©1950)
FACTS OF LIFE & LOVE FOR TEEN-AGERS (revised) by EM Duvall (Popular Library, 1957. ©.1956)
LOVE & THE FACTS OF LIFE by EM Duvall (Association Press, 1969. ©1963)
THE ART OF DATING by EM Duvall & Joy Duvall Johnson (Perma, 1960. ©1958)
THE ART OF DATING (revised) by Duvall & Johnson (Association, 1968)
WHY WAIT TILL MARRIAGE?(General Edition) by Duvall (Association, 1967. ©1965)
WHY WAIT TILL MARRIAGE? (Catholic Edition) by Duvall (Association, 1965)

If there ever was a Queen of the Teen Advice Book, it would have to be Evelyn Millis Duvall. In the '50s & '60s, she was the undisputed leader, not only in number of titles, but in total copies sold -- 2 million plus for FACTS OF LOVE & LIFE alone. She also enjoyed unparalleled approval among adults who, after all, were probably the ones actually buying the books. Most of her books were first published by the YMCA, and were widely praised by both secular & non-secular critics. Organizations ranging from the Vatican to the American Medical Association officially approved of her books.

She came from an academic background with a PhD in Human Development and a reputation "as a top-ranking authority on sex & family life education". Not too surprisingly, this gives her books a very innocuous, school-marm tone, calculated to inform without either offending or preaching. She uses a little pop psych, some mild threats of consequences, and serious threats of social disapproval (your reputation!) to convince, not force, kids to behave. No Pat Boone or Dear Abby chumminess -- this is almost textbook stuff.

FACTS OF LIFE & LOVE FOR TEEN-AGERS is probably the single most popular teen advice book ever published, and in a way, defined the adult idea of teens in the '50s & early '60s. She carefully avoids real controversey by not taking any stand on the hot teen topics: when to date, curfews, etc., & leaving them up to "community standards" (i.e., what your parents say). She's after bigger fish.

The book opens with a lengthy discussion of the birds & the bees -- decent, basic physiology, though when it comes to the interesting peripheral topics, she ducks. Contraception is merely something that exists. Tampons for virgins? Ask your doctor.

Her dating advice is a whole code of behavior, not so much manners as a code of social mores. This is how you get a date, this is how you act on it, this is what you do. Boys pick up the girls at home & meet the folks. "Girls can call boys only when absolutely necessary". Dating activities are to be kept wholesome, with the boy paying most of the time. For the grand finale, the girl need merely thank her date warmly for a wonderful evening, sans lips. Both boys & girls agree that the first date is too early for a goodnight kiss.

Petting is a definite no-no. Girls, you don't have to pet to be popular. It's just a test guys do to see if you're sleazy enough to let him. It's definitely addicting, a habit which is impossible to stop from progressing deeper & deeper into until the ultimate act ... scandal, disgrace, and a shattered reputation. Where do you draw the line? When you start feeling guilty the next day.

And so it goes. The book winds up with a very strange discussion of what real bve is & how to recognize it, complete with Walt Whitman quotes. You have to be careful not to confuse the real thing with such imposters as "jealous love" or "possesive love". Remember: "Love wants to share", "Love is a we feeling". Things get downright sappy here... & then comes the getting pinned/engaged/married rap. My advice? You're ready for that when you've outgrown this book.

A revised edition of FOL&LFT appeared in 1956, with only some very minor changes that are almost unnoticable. The only ones I spotted were citations of a couple of university studes, one on why teen boys & girls like each other, & the other on how pregnant teens did it on purpose. She also added a brief section on dating soldiers -- with this draft & all, they might actually be nice boys.

The major overhaul came in 1963 "because you are considerably more mature than young people your age when FOL&LFT first came out, this new book has been especially designed to meet your present day concerns". Duvall speaketh with forked tongue. This revision is mainly a giant cut&paste job. In earlier editions, the discussion went sex-dating-love-marriage. This one goes love-sex-dating-marriage. Most sections are lifted verbatim from the 1950 edition.

To her credit, there are a few improvements for all those modern teens. Instead of sticking to biology & sociology, she adds material on that old "I was a teen-age fuckup" feeling, complete with fake anecdotes about teens who could never exist. She even drops the shhoolmarm language a few times to make some really bad puns: "The trouble with puppy love is that it so often leads to a dog's life".

There's even a touch of controversey. She actually mentions The Pill, though only to warn girls that it doesn't work if you sneak one of Mom's. And, finally, she discuses "sensible sex" -- between 2 teens deeply in love, clean of VD, & smart enough to take precautions. She's against it of course, strongly, but without hellfire & brimstone, she isn't very convincing. She winds up ranting about the need for sex controls and how "it is a wise couple who knows when to stop & how". So I guess it's ok for dummies.

THE ART OF DATING is basically FOL&LFT without the sex & love. Strictly the dating sections rewritten & expanded for teens in the trenches. Boys are told that "A fellow doesn't have to neck to be popular with the vast majority of girls" (whew!). The definition of petting is expanded to include the "lingering french kiss". And, of course, the ideal of pre-marital chasity is really driven home. One by one, the standard lines "It's natural", "If you really loved me..." etc., are dissected, discarded, and a defense provided. Oneway: white flower. Also, for the first time since the '40s, marijuana "reefers" are mentioned as something to be avoided at all costs. You'll get hooked & will be on the path straight to heroin. Probably the most thorough book on '60s dating behavior around -- for all you historical sociologists.

A revised version followed in 1967 with, as expected, very few non-cosmetic changes. The only real one was substituting 3 paragraphs on "glue sniffing, goofballs, & LSD" for

the 3 paragraphs on "reefers". Conclusion is that "'Playing around' with dope is courting serious trouble". They even sneak a plug for their next book, WHY WAIT TILL MARRIAGE into the anti-sex chapter.

In WWTM, the gloves are off. This is a 120 page rant& rave of the case for chasity, one that would have even made old Dr. Sylvannus Stall (1897) proud.

Duvall uses every argument possible, no matter how questionable or distored. From psychology -- from history -- from sociology -- from history -- from religion -- even from Kinsey, it is clear that "The weight of the evidence is still on the side of chasity." Virginity is dear!

She starts off by trying to refute the Kinsey fueled perception that "everyone's doing it". The estimate was that about half the non-veteran men & 1/4 women college students had "done it" by the age of 21. She theorizes that most of these had only crossed the line once in one reckless moment before realizing the error of their ways. (My theory is that those people probably lied & said they were virgins, since they "almost" were). She also doesn't consider "technical" virgins who've done everything but. Discussions of manual, oral, and anal virginity are also relevent, here, when you're advocating a strict hands-off policy.

The whole stance of the book is based on hardcore mythical middleclass values which are assumed to be chisled in stone. The middle class values chasity, the middleclass is successful, the middleclass is good, therefore chasity is necessary to be both good & successful. The lower classes, with their distinctly animalistic sexual practices which force them to accept up-American government handouts, are discussed only with a sense of distaste.

Is sex natural? Of course, but "it is not to say that just because we are mammalian we should therefore act like animals". Is it fun? Pre-maritally, "It's not fun if you don't enjoy it". Several horror stories about the sad & lonely lives of the sexually fulfilled come in here. And, if you are in love, having sex may cause the boy to lose his respect for you & change his mind, making the girl feel shabby. "Hopping into bed with every individual you feel fond of would be ridiculous, if not downright immoral".

Sexual restraint is not bad for you, either from a physiological or psychological view. As a matter of fact, "Sublimation is important for your development as a person". Not having sex is good for you.

In summary, "chasity is worth the struggle", not only for your present happiness, but for your family, your future family, and indeed the future of American democracy. Loose morals are for decling decaying civilization, not for a robust country like the US of A.

Interestingly enough, there was also a "Catholic Edition" of WWTM? which the Catholic Church granted a nihil obstat & imprimatur as "official declation that a book... is free of doctrinal or moral error." Duvall's introduction was dropped in favor of one by some high-ranking Jesuit. And that was the only change. As far as I can tell, this edition follows the text of the original general edition word for word, even the brief bits on The Pill and abortion. Weird...

Yet, in spite of all this moralizing, in spite of her give-me-chasity-or-give-me-death stand, Duvall was actually attacked during the Orange County sex-ed fight in the '60s for being part of the Sex Information & Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), an organization that "had some kind of Messianic mission to make sex machines out of the whole population".

The question is, folks, is that before or after marriage?

Dearest Abigail

DEAR TEENAGER by Abigal Van Buren (Pocket, 1960 ©1959)
WHAT EVERY TEENAGER OUGHT/SHOULD KNOW pamphlets 1975-85

Frankly, I've always preferred sister Ann Landers over Dear Abby. Not that there's any discernable ideological differences or disparity in the quality of letters they publish (both have their share of nuts, flakes, & cranks), but I just can't stand her answers. Those damned corny, flippiant one-liners that are supposed to be funny. Hah hah. C'mon, Abby, wake up & smell the coffee (as Ann would say). The letters are funnier than you'll ever be.

Yet, oddly enough, Abby's only full length teen advice book, DEAR TEENAGER, is really funny. And it's not funny the way all the other advice books are -- did kids really believe this & cautionary tales of teen disaster which read like black humour -- but funny-funny, as in jokes. She wrote stuff that was supposed to be funny, and now, 30 years later, it still is!

Her basic method is to drive her advice home by ridiculously overstating the inverse. For example, on asking for a date: one does not phone & say "I bet you can't guess who this is, baby, but we sure make sweet stereo together". And in approaching parents, the use of proper timing is emphasized. Don't go up to your father right after he's cut himself shaving to confess, "Daddy-o, I disintegrated the family car on Highway 101 last night. A few other cars were involved, & well, about the trial..."

Chuckles aside, the advice sticks to the standard advice about the standard problems: dating, cars, parents, friends, & school. (No birds & bees). "A pleasing personality is the key to poularity"; "A nice girl does not hand out a kiss or kisses on a first date, no matter how much she digs the guy"; "Girls need to 'prove their love' through sexual relation like a moose needs a hatrack"; and, of course, "limit the number of your kisses, the duration of your kisses & the type of your kisses". After all, all those rules your parents make for you are just for your own good.

Like 'em all, Abby is staunchly against "going all the way" or even partway. However, Abby actually admits the possibility that she may slip & get into trouble. (Almost everyone else refuses to consider the possibility). No preaching or condemning -- just tell your mother. She'll know what to do. Abby, however, doesn't say what this what is.

Just like sister Ann, Abby has her own line of pamphlets (SASE to AVB/ Box 447/ Mount Morris, IL 61054). Only current teen title is "What Every Teen Should Know", about half of which was lifted from DEAR TEENAGER. The rest, where she really talks about sex & drugs, is pretty good. She even implies (strongly!) that it's OK for reasonably mature teens to Do It if they take proper precautions (fully described w/ pros & cons). "When teenagers write & ask me if they should go all the way, I always say 'Don't'. The reason is obvious; anyone who asks is not sufficently mature to handle it". Sounds ok by me. And, as an extra added bonus, she reprints the classic teenaged corpse-eyed view of a car wreck, "Please God, I'm Only 17".

If this had been in DEAR TEENAGER, the Eisenhower era mothers of America would have killed her, or at least had her deported for being a Commie.

Ann Landers

ANN LANDERS TALKS TO TEEN-AGERS ABOUT SEX (Fawcett, 1968 ©'63)
various pamphlets, 1978-1986

Face it. No matter how much you, or your ultrahip friends deny it, I know you read Ann (or analog twin Abby) whenever you look at that section of the paper. Try this little experiment next time there's a really memorable letter, like the necrophiliac groom on the wedding night or the lady who was interrupted while doing the housework in the nude by the meter-reader. Casually mention it & see how many people "I never read that tripe" just happened to see it that day.

The main reason people give for "avoiding" her column is that "she's too old-fashioned & outdated in her advice". And true, Ann's definitely not the spearhead of any social revolution. But neither is she stuck pushing the stuff she picked up during her adolescence in the '30s. Consistently, she's at least as relaxed as prevailing moderately liberal opinion, which is a lot more than you can say for most authors. You have to realize that not everyone is a hip modern urban dweller. Ann regularily gets angry letters from the Bible Belt accusing her of being some sort of pinko atheistic commie kike trying to hook kids on sex. She's also pretty good about "waking up & smelling the coffee" & realizing times change, another rarity.

In the teen field, her big book is ANN LANDERS TALKS TO TEENAGERS ABOUT SEX. A better title would have been AL TALKS TO TEENS ABOUT NOT HAVING SEX. Like everyone else at the time, Ann favored white flowers for boys & girls, but she was much more reasonable than most. She did not preach, threaten, rant or rave. Without mincing words & using a common sense argument, she points out that pregnancy is a definite possiblity & a real mess. Even if youre lucky in that respect, you could lose the boy because he thinks you're cheap & wind up with a rep that attracts guys with just one thing in mind (& it's not a prom invitation). It's not bad, it's not wrong -- just stupid. "The girl can be nice -- but night very bright". The others just brand 'em as fallen women & leave it at that.

As good as Ann tells it, the most convincing part are the great letters she reprints from her column, sad, pathetic, & authentic tales of teens who "went too far". A definite cut above the standard fake stories of "teens just like yourselves". Conclusion? "It isn't worth the risks".

She does admit "It is substantially more difficult to be a teenager today" (1963) & the battle to avoid trouble is not as easy as in the '30s. The trick is for girls (Why? They're the ones who get pregnant) to avoid situations which are "more than they can handle". That means no moonlit drives, no unchaperoned parties, & above all, NO PARKING. Ann is one of the few who not only is against going steady, but has a decent reason: all kids tend to go a little farther each time. She does conceed that necking is fine, provided all hands remain on deck. Tongues are left to individual discrection. Petting is out.

It's hard to tell when she dropped the anti-sex attitude. Her next book, 1968's TRUTH IS STRANGER has a chapter on teens in the same vein. Since then, she's done dozens of pamphlets

A few years back, Ann ran a request for girls to send in the lines guys use these days, & got 18,000 replies, including some the girls use on the guys. It just shows kids don't have any more imagination now than they did then.

Boy vs. Girl

Don't be a baby -- it's part of growing up.
If you really loved me, you would.
It's very painful for a guy to get this turned on without getting off.
It's good for your complexion.
I never wanted anyone the way I want you.
We might all be dead tomorrow.
You're too tense -- sex will make you relax.
Since we're going to get married, we'd better check that sexual compatibility.
Prove that you're not a lesbian.
We won't go all the way. I'll stop whenever you say.
I'm sterile.
I'll never tell anyone.
I love you, and will marry you if you get pregnant.
It's natural.

Naturally, the girls can use most of these on the guys, too. However, the sly little vixens have one of their own:

The doctor told me to have sex to make my cramps better.

(list for SASE to AL/ PO Box 11995/ Chicago, IL 60611), most of which are aimed at teens. Titles include "Love Or Sex & How To Tell the Difference" and "Necking & Petting: What Are the Limits?". All reprint letters from her column & make great reading for fans of teen pathos & tragedy.

The weird thing about these books is that someone's been updating the copyrights without updating the contents. I mean, I've read her daily for at least 15 years. I know she hasn't been saying things like that.

Take, for example, "Necking & Petting", © 1981. Parts cribbed straight from AL TALKS TO TEENS... with necking on the porch, no petting, & the barest mention of contraception.

Then, suddenly, things changed in 1982's crop ob booklets, [illegible]. She still prefers virginity & she has not "capitulated or collapsed", but she has woken up & smelled the coffee. Kids were having sex without wrecking their lives, or even their reputations. It's now ok in the context of a decent relationship, provided proper precautions are taken. She firmly supports confidential Planned Parenthood for teens, and urges parents [illegible], if they catch their kids doing it, to admit the battle has been lost. Teens just don't stop having sex 'cos Mommy & Daddy say so.

She breaks more ground in "Sex & the Teenager", the frankest advice booklet I've ever read. She still favors absistence, moreso now because of AIDS, but she has now dropped all taboos & discusses everything. This is the only book I have which mentions crabs, oral sex, and anal sex ("I do not recommend it as an alternative to vaginal sex"). There are the usual great letters & Ann's patent down-to-earth style. Bet this blew a few parent's wigs when they found this on Junior's desk.

In all, you've got to admit Ann has come a long way from being "a square Jewish girl fron Iowa".

QUICK TIPS

STRICTLY PRIVATE by Elizabeth Woodward (Crowell, 1944)

Woodward was something called the "Sub-Deb" editor for THE LADIES HOME JOURNAL who dispensed advice to the "millions of teenagers who look on her as their confidante... and best friend". A misplaced trust, I assure you. The path to social success lies in acting like an adult, preferably a boring one, and sticking to the classical dating pattern with the boy paying & the girl kissing only if she feels like it.

TEEN AGE MANUAL by Edith Heal (Simon & Shuster, 1948)

This one is really pointless. Fully half of it is beauty & fashion tips that were out by 1949, & the other half is dating tips of equal value. The goal is popularity, & the means are dates -- the more, the better! "You are so delighted to be asked out for a date that you forget, for a moment, that it is with Horace". The hot stuff? "Necking is a bad imitation of grown-up love". Stick to the Beave, kids.

HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL TEEN-AGER by William C. Menninger et. al. (Sterling 1954)
HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE OPPOSITE SEX by Menninger et. al. (Sterling, 1956)

In the '50s, technology was the faith & scientists the high priests, so it was inevitable that the scientific method would crop up in the teen tip manuals. Instead of the standard self-appointed experts, these were written by a gaggle of doctors, psychiatrists, & professors who'd actually studied teens, albeit from an ivory tower. Nonetheless, an improvement. Most is strictly mental hygiene stuff -- your problems are normal. No sex or dating moral axes are ground, just the facts, kids, it's your decision. I believe this abscence of hellfire is referred to by the Christers as "godless situation ethics".

THE SEVENTEEN BOOK OF YOUNG LIVING by Enid Haupt (Popular Library, 1957)

Just what you'd expect from the editor/publisher of a muckraking rag like Seventeen. With all the brainless enthusiasm of a mindless drone named Muffie, Haupt proclaims "You are on the threshold of life" (a hubby, 2 kids, & a colonial in Scarsdale). Mainly girly-girl stuff ("Your room - heavenly heaven," etc.) with one brief chapter on dating which doesn't even mention anything as obscene as necking. A guide for all rapid suburban hausfraus-to-be.

YOUNG ONLY ONCE by Clyde Narramore (Zondervan, 1972. ©1957)

The premise is that "No one has more real fun than a Christian", even though that means such sinful activities as dancing & nightclubbing are verboten. Born-again teens must also avoid using such near-oaths as "heck, gosh, & darn". Dating is strictly a wholesome activity to be indulged in only with other born-agains. The non-saved are only for witnessing.

SEX & THE ADOLESCENT by Maxine Davis (Perma, 1958)

It starts out innocently enough with a reasonably modern discussion of sex methods & mechanics, but slowly, the ranting creeps in. Davis admits that everyone pets, but nonetheless, "the only... safeguard is 'don't' pet at all". The admirable bloody flag of virginity is waved: "Virginity can never be old-fashioned". The horrors of abortion are detailed. By the end, she's almost foaming at the mouth as she discuses "perverts, inverts, & deviates". And everywhere, it's "The Catholic Church says...". I smell a papist.

THE OPPOSITE SEX by Rose Hacker (Hart, 1966. ©1960)

A real dog, whether you're out for facts or fun. Written in a shallow, passive, dreary style dripping with limp platitudes, the presentation is scattered, disorganized, & misleading. Would make a great sleep-learning tape.

HOW TO DEAL WITH PARENTS & OTHER PROBLEMS by Dr. Ernest G. Osborne (Tempo, 1966. ©1962)

Though sounding like it's going to take the teen's side, this book is more an inmate's guide to the jailers. Each chapter informs you about "Why Your Father Acts That Way","Why Your Teacher...", etc. The answer is that they're just jerky humans, too. A very liberal attitude towards the boy/girl stuff, too. Pick-ups are ok sometimes, and inter-racial/religion dating is not to be condemned. The wonders of the JFK era...

SEX AND THE TEENAGER by R. & S. Benner (MacFadden, 1964)

Early stirrings of modernism, including everything you probably learned in "Family Life", right down to actual definitions of the mysterious terms: necking & petting. No moral judgements passed, but celibacy is still strongly encouraged as the best method of avoiding pregnancy & VD. Most advice is couched in tales of teens "just like you", all of which are hysterical, especially the one about Kathy's abortion.

SEX & THE INTELLIGENT TEENAGER by Colin Wilson (Pyramid, 1968. ©1966

This is really different. After a quickie discussion of biological basics & a slap at the competition ("I don't think I have ever met one (teenager) who is moronic enough to take this kind of thing seriously"), Angry Young Man Wilson launches into a regular intellectual inquiry into the meaning of sex, complete with obscure literary references, Nietzsche, & his theory of "The Outsider". Conclusions include such gems as "the desire is deeper than the satisfaction" and "Man is like a tiger looking for a good meal". The new teen philosophy of sex?

THAT GIRL IN YOUR MIRROR by Vonda Kay Van Dyke (Spire, 1967)

Quite possibly, and thankfully, the only teen advice book written by a Miss America (1965, 36-24-36, trivia buffs). She was also voted Miss Congeniality, and it's not too hard to see why. She almost gushes & bubbles right off the page about how wonderful & beautiful everyone & everything is. She pushes the standard Miss America/Heartland party line, right on down to being on a first-name basis with God. Samole advice: "You may offend the crowd, that's true, but would you rather offend God?"

THE TEENAGER YOU'RE DATING by Walter Reiss (Concordia, 1967. ©1964)

Billed as "the Christian View of Sex", the opening advice is "Boys are like buses. If one passes you by, there'll be another one along soon". And then things go downhill. It's a series of stupid devotions with tips for Christian Girls about Christian Boys & vice versa. No Jews allowed, and no usefull advice. No matter what the question, the answer is <u>always</u> Jesus Christ.

BOYS & SEX by Wardell Pmeroy (Dell, 1972. ©1968)

No laughs here. Written by a co-author of the Kinsey Report, this is one book that really tells all, even to the point of using the word "fuck" (the only book to do so). Lots of biology, including a few minor things I wish I'd known about, and a fairly realistic realization about how much kids are going to do. He doesn't advocate sex, but has no problems about a guy going out & getting a little, provided he's not an macho ass about it. Although some parts are slightly dated, I wouldn't hesitate to give it seriously to a 12-year old.

HANDBOOK OF DATING & OTHER ETTIQUETTE by Sandi Cushman (Scholastic, 1970)
More tips on how to be a Wallflower, albeit an extremely well-behaved one. Strictly an all-inclusive code of manners which assumes no common sense, and filled with anachronisms. Were people still "cutting in" and "getting stuck" at dances in 1970?

A TEENAGER'S GUIDE TO LIFE & LOVE by Dr. Benjamin Spock (Pocket, 1971 ©1970)

Leave it to Dr. Spock (of baby book & Reace & Freedom Party fame) to really break the mold. His formula for teen success is "know thyself". He helps by skipping the standard morals, manners, & mechanics in favor of a sugar-coated Freudian explanation of teen & adult behavior in that tangle of love, sex, & lust. Also one of the first books to discuss drugs in a tone other than shocked horror.

SEX FACTS FOR TEENAGERS by Fiore & Ward (Ace, 1971)

A dull, almost cliched advice book which, while being reasonably sound, seldom rises above pop psychology. The only real difference is the debut of abortion as medicine, not murder. Though the authors never judge or moralize, you get the feeling that they would be much happier if those darn kids would stop having so much sex. Jealous?

TEENS ASK QUESTIONS (Scholastic, 1972)

...and boy do they get stupid answers. The idea here is that teens send in questions,which other teens answer, sometimes 3 or 4 different answers, all contradictory. Although questions avoid really hot sex&drug topics, they do maintain an amusingly high level of stupidity & MISS LONELYHEARTS-style pathos. And when it comes to dishing out the advice, the kids demonstrate that they can be every bit as creepy as their parents if given the chance. A must for all advice column junkies.

ASK BETH: YOU CAN'T ASK YOUR MOTHER by Elizabeth Winship (Houghton Mifflin, 1976. ©1972)

Although I don't see why not. Yes, this is ASK BETH as in my favorite newspaper column, but, unfortunately, this book does not revolve around the subject that makes the column so great: kinky adolescent sex. It's just the classic advice book stuff: school, parents, dating, drugs, & (non-kinky) sex. Uses the column's Q&A format with Beth dishing out her usual dull/normal sensible advice. Mildly amusing, but not what I look forward to every Sunday.

QUESTIONS YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK by Reit & Warner (SBS, '79)

Very shallow & mindless in the best Scholastic tradition (see HI THERE, HIGH SCHOOL!) filled with tips that even the stupidiest acne-plauged teen should have figured out by 8th grade. Everything is just so simple. Meeting that cute member of the opposite sex? Simply go up & say "Hi". Right. So they say "Hi" back. THEN WHAT??? This book doesn't say.

THE TEEN GIRL'S GUIDE TO SOCIAL SUCCESS by Marjabelle Young Stewart (Signet, 1982)

Packaged to look like HOW TO GET A TEENAGE BOY..., this is actually closer to the manners books of 20 years ago, right down to the I-was-never-a-teen tone. There is some modernization -- 1st date kissing, & sex is your decision (just you'd better make the right one), but no dumpy Diana is going to learn to bag that quarterback from this one. A better title would have been THE TEEN GIRL'S GUIDE TO AVOIDING SOCIAL CATASTROPHE; OR, WHO PAYS FOR WHAT?

AM I NORMAL? by Jeanne Betancourt (Avon, 1983)

No you're not, you little creep, and I hope you get forcibly sodomized in the showers with a softball bat. The IN HIGH AT SEXTEEN of our generation. A photo-illustraded film script about this really ugly teen boy seeking out the facts of life. He worries about boners at school, wet dreams at night, & the ribbing his friends give him about hairy palms. In due course, he reads the appropiate books & winds up popping off to his friends with the truth at the zoo. A crowd gathers & gives this little creep screaming about masturbation a standing ovation. Must be seen to believe.

HOW TO BE POPULAR WITH BOYS by Stacy Rubis (Crown, 1984)

A collection of tips which will allegedly enable any teen girl to snare jillions of cute guys. Some might work, but lots are sure invitations for disaster. Very reminiscent of Eric Weber's classic HOW TO PICK UP GIRLS, who for some odd reason seems to hold the copyright.

TERMS EVERY TEEN SHOULD KNOW

ABORTION -- murder for it, suicide for you.

ANAL SEX -- did not exist prior to 1985.

CARS -- when they're not getting you around, they're getting you in trouble.

CHASITY -- the ideal mode of conduct for boys & girls alike.

CONTRACEPTION -- only works for married people.

GOD -- your personal friend

GOING STEADY -- a popular practice that is not recommended.

HYMEN -- a girl's single most precious possession.

INTERCOURSE -- a mysterious act which only married couples may perform, and then only for procreation.

JESUS CHRIST -- the answer to any and all of your problems.

KISSING -- something that a girl may do with a boy after a very super-special prom.

LEWD WOMEN -- only two types exist: those that are diseased some of the time & those that are diseased all of the time.

MASTURBATION -- a frightful practice that saps vitality, softens the brain, and eventually drives one insane.

MARIJUANA -- a vile narcotic noted for driving its users into a sexual frenzy.

NOVELS (READING OF) -- a major cause of sexual infirmity among women.

NECKING -- a controversial activity.

ORAL SEX -- see ANAL SEX

PETTING -- a mysterious, undefined practice which, while indulged in by many, will wreck your reputation, if not your life.

REPUTATION -- a girl's 2nd most precious possession.

TEACHERS -- sincere, dedicated professionals who only want to help you learn to the extent of your abilities.

VENEREAL DISEASE -- A horrible, but just punishment for those who defy the laws of God & Man; oddly enough, also readily communicable via combs, doorknobs, toilets, & glasses.